

## FATHOM THIS!

The monthly newsletter from  
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

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Welcome to the holiday season at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, your floating national park on San Francisco's historic waterfront! Join us as we present our annual Christmas programs (descriptions below), view exhibits in the Visitor Center, ship models and the whaling ship *Niantic* exhibit in the main lobby of the Maritime Museum building (upper floors remain closed for renovation), and tour the fleet of historic vessels berthed at Hyde Street Pier. To see all the programs the park has to offer, see the park website at [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr), and the website of the park's cooperating San Francisco Maritime National Park Association at [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org).

Fathom This! is sent monthly. Feel free to forward this newsletter, and enter it, in whole or in part, into blogs. To receive it, or to cancel, please contact the editor at [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov).

### CHRISTMAS AT SEA

*Saturday, December 11, 3-4:45pm, aboard Balclutha. Ships boarding fees apply: Adults, \$5, ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes. No reservations necessary. Information: 415-447-5000.*

Our annual holiday celebration features live music, refreshments, ornament-making, a story reading, and a visit from Santa Claus! The Dogwatch Nautical Band starts the festivities at 3pm, singing traditional sea chanteys with a holiday twist. Kids of all ages will enjoy the popular ornament-making activities, cookies, and hot apple cider. As the band concludes its performance, a park ranger will read a popular Christmas story. Santa will then arrive by rowboat and make his way up the ladder to board ship and greet everyone. Santa then will lead you into the shelter deck and will listen to children's (and children at heart's) wishes until the program ends at 4:45pm.

### OLD TIME MARITIME CHRISTMAS

*Saturday, December 11, 6pm-9pm, on Hyde Street Pier and aboard historic vessels berthed at the pier. Free admission. Reservations required: 415-447-5000.*

The park's costumed Living History players present the annual Old Time Maritime Christmas, bringing maritime history to life in this unique holiday program. Turn the clock back to Christmas in the year 1901, where you will meet and talk with captains, wives, crews, and passengers aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Lamp lit guided tours by a costumed night watchman start from the pier entrance every 20 minutes beginning at 6pm, with the last tour leaving at 8pm. Tours last approximately 55 minutes. Cookies, hot tea and hot apple cider will be available, free of charge, at the conclusion of each tour. With the lights of San Francisco twinkling in the background, the program offers a memorable holiday experience. To reserve, please call the Visitor Center, open daily 9:30am-5pm, at 415-447-5000.

### **C.A. THAYER UPDATE**

*The Thayer's chief shipwright Jeffrey Morris reports:*

I have nearly completed applying our deck preservation coatings, known as "oiling the deck." This new mixture, with paraffin wax as the key ingredient, was developed by the Forest Products lab and brought to our attention and refined by Park Conservator Dave Casebolt. This deck coating wraps up our preventative maintenance and puts the *Thayer* in a good condition as we head into the rainy season. I am constructing a temporary cover over the aft house so that work can continue through the winter.

### **IN THE MARITIME LIBRARY**

*Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Open to the public by appointment only, Monday through Friday, and the third Saturday of the month, 1pm-4pm. Call 415-561-7030.*

Here are some reading ideas taken from the library's collection, put together by reference librarian Ted Miles. For kids, *Joey Goes To Sea*, by Alan Villiers. "Joey" was the ship's cat aboard the *Joseph Conrad*, sailing around the world. For the mystery lovers there are two books by Howard Pease, *Shanghai Passage: Mutiny* and *Mystery On The Pacific*, and *The Ship Without A Crew*. The Third Mate T. Morgan had his hands full on that voyage!

### **A JOKE FOR THE HOLIDAY**

Have you seen the Christmas alphabet? Here it is: A B C D E F G H I J K M N  
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
(no "L")

### **LINKS**

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/> San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.  
<http://www.maritime.org> San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the park's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.  
<http://www.library.nps.gov> The Maritime Library catalog.  
<http://www.museum.nps.gov/safr/page.htm> The park museum catalog records.  
<http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org> The Maritime Library's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The park Living History program's volunteer created and managed website.

<http://www.corsair-viking.org> The San Francisco Sea Scouts, the park's neighboring partner in Aquatic Park.